

Filed for intro on 06/27/2002

HOUSE RESOLUTION 404
By Hagood

A RESOLUTION to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Middle
Tennessee Pony Club Horse Trials.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause in its deliberations to celebrate those unique events and institutions that have made unique contributions to the cultural fabric of this state; and

WHEREAS, the Middle Tennessee Pony Club Horse Trials are the longest continuously run horse trials in the nation; for fifty years, the Trials have brought much honor and enjoyment to the good people of this State; and

WHEREAS, a three-phase competition including dressage, cross-country jumping, and show jumping, the Horse Trials first came to Tennessee in Warner Parks in 1953, under the direction of Miss Margaret Lindsley Warden, writer of the "Horse Sense" column in *The Nashville Tennessean*; she invited Major Jonathan Burton to demonstrate dressage at "The Horse Sense Riding Tournament" in late 1952; and

WHEREAS, the inspiration for the demonstration was provided by Miss Warden's reading of a contribution on the subject by Major Burton to *The Chronicle of the Horse*; and

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WHEREAS, on June 25, 1953, "The Southeast's Initial One Day Event" was added to the Second Annual Horse Sense Riding Tournament; the following year, the Olympic Three Day Trials finished along with the Riding Tournament and "One Day" on the last day of Labor Day weekend, all in the steeplechase and adjoining Percy Warner Park; and

WHEREAS, a quarter century later, the Middle Tennessee Pony Club, founded by Miss Warden in 1954, became the official sponsor of the Horse Trials, beginning a wonderful relationship that has lasted to this day; and

WHEREAS, the MTPC Horse Trials have grown to include four levels of competition, from Beginner Novice through the Preliminary level, and are sanctioned by the United States Eventing Association; and

WHEREAS, this year, the famed event will host the dressage and show jumping phases at Brownland Farm in Franklin on October 12 and the cross-country phase at Percy Warner Park on October 13; and

WHEREAS, for generations, the Horse Trials have been spreading the joy and love of equestrian athletics to the people of this state and our nation, and they have brought much honor to Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we join in celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Middle Tennessee Pony Club Horse Trials, recognize the tremendous significance of the event, and salute the good people who have contributed to the Horse Trials for a half century.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.